(d) Steps taken to boost export of spices include post harvest improvement through training and infrastructure development; trade promotion; extending support for upgradation of technology; introduction of high tech spice processing, setting up/upgradation of laboratories, accreditation of units in Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)/Hazard Assessment and Critical Control Process (HACCP)/Intemational Standards Organisation (ISO), packaging development, printing of business brochures, business tours abroad, sending business samples abroad; support for organic farming of spices; award of Spice House Certificate and Indian Spices Logo for popularising good manufacturing practices, good hygienic practices and branded spice products.

Products having export potential from Bihar

2946. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the products of Bihar which have export potential;

(b) the exports made of products of Bihar during the last two years and the current year so far;

(c) the total earnings made as a result thereof; and

(d) what are the future plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) (a) to (d) Identification of products having export potential is a continuous process, major products from Bihar that are being exported are cereals, vegetables, fruits, minerals, pharmaceuticals etc.

As per the information available with the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistcs, the total value of exports of various products from Bihar during 2002-03,2003-04 and in 2004-05 (upto February, 2005) are as follows:-

Year	Value (in Rs.)
2002-03	3781216194
2003-04	8303938963
2004-05 (upto February, 2005)	4456465248

The State Government is making efforts to boost the exports from the State, which *inter-alia* includes the strengthening of the exports infrastructure through projects like the development of the Export Promotion Industrial Park, Hajipur etc.

Stopping import of inferior quality tea

2947. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to stop import of tea of inferior quality as this is affecting the image of Indian tea industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to protect the image of quality Indian tea; and

(d) whether Government have proposed to release of Rs. 120 Crores collected by Government in the form of additional excise duty as demanded by Indian Tea Association?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) (a) to (c) In order to maintain quality and retain the brand equity of Indian teas, the Government has issued a new Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 2005 under the provisions of the Tea Act, 1953 on 01.04.2005 in supersession of the Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 1957. The new Order prescribes strict norms for tea and all teas, whether imported or exported, that would be required to conform to the specifications cited in the new Order. It also stipulates that all tea consignments meant either for imports or exports would have to undergo a certification procedure whehe by the quality of tea and the country of its origin would be determined and displayed. The Tea Board would be the nodal agency of the certification exercise. The non-preferential Certificate of Origin in respect of each consignment of tea exports would be issued by the Tea Board or any of its designated agencies. The new Order also prescribes a minimum value addition norm of 50% on export of all imported teas and stipulates a time period of 6 months from the date of import for the export of imported tea. Consequential changes have also been effected in the Handbook of Procedures under the Foreign Trade Policy.